NOTES, ABSTRACTS, AND REVIEWS.

A CORRECTION.

A correspondent calls the attention of the Editor to certain inaccuracies in the article "R. L. S. As Meteorologist" which appeared in the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW, February, 1921, page 92. It is pointed out (1) that the residence of Stevenson in San Francisco was in a house on Powell Street near Bush and not in a house fronting on Portsmouth Square; (2) the article seems to imply that the monument in Portsmouth Square is the only one to Stevenson in the United States, whereas there is at least one other (at Calistoga, Calif.); (3) according to standard editions of Stevenson's works the quotation "Home is the wanderer, home from the sea" should read "Home is the sailor, home from sea."—EDITOR.

Death of Dr. Julius Von Hann.

It is with profound regret that meteorologists in all parts of the world will receive the announcement of the death of Dr. Julius von Hann, former director of the Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik, at Vienna. The notice just received from the Osterreichische Gesellschaft für Meteorologie, states that Dr. von Hann died at his home in Vienna on October 1, after long illness. It will be recalled that after the war he, as well as other Austrian meteorologists, were reported to be in dire need, and, in this country, the American Meteorological Society promptly responded to the call for aid, sending assistance to the workers of the Zentralanstalt and to Dr. von Hann in particular. Although as yet, no information is available concerning the circumstances of his death, it is presumed that his advanced age (this being his 83d year), and the hardships that he has been obliged to undergo in the last several years were direct contributors. In the face of these facts, it is the more remarkable that he continued to write and publish scientific papers.

It is unnecessary to mention the many valuable papers containing results of careful and painstaking investigations, the important *Meteorologie* and *Klimatologie*, of which he was the author, or the *Meteorologische Zeitschrift*, of which he was an editor and founder, for they are known to all readers and students of meteorology; nor is it necessary to dwell upon the magnitude of the circle of influence that he commanded when it required 10 long lines of very small type in the notice of his death to list the abbreviated names of organizations, in all parts of the world, of which he was a member, the important positions he has held, and the honors he has received. Indeed, the statement—

> Ein Leben ununterbrochener Geistesarbeit und reinster Forschung im Dienste der Wissenschaft ist abgeschlossen. Aber ungezählte Fäden führen von Hann's Werken in alle Lander der Erde und wirken in seinem Sinne fort.

will be received with universal approval.—*C. L. M.*

Death of Director Carbonell of the National Observatory of Cuba.

Dr. Luis Garcia y Carbonell, director of the National Observatory of Cuba, died in Habana on October 11, 1921. Dr. Carbonell has occupied this position since 1905, and has cooperated during this period with the United States Weather Bureau in the collection of meteorological information. He was just entering upon his eighty-second year, his death occurring the day following his eighty-first birthday.

At this writing the only notice regarding his successor is an unofficial news item which states that Dr. José G. Millas, has been appointed. Dr. Millas is well known in the United States, having done astronomical work at the Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago, and at the Naval Observatory at Washington.—*C. L. M.*

THE INFLUENCE OF THE ALPS ON PRESSURE OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.[1]

551.54 (234.3) (262)

By HEINRICH FICKER.

When it is observed from charts of mean pressure distribution over Europe for two successive days that the center of an extensive depression moves from the Atlantic Ocean to a region east of Scandinavia, and when other conditions are favorable, there occurs typical development of a secondary depression south of the Alps, which formation is seen to replace a previously existing wedge-shaped area of high pressure.

This secondary minimum is explained by continuance of pressure fall south of the Alps until the passage of the axis of a "primary" pressure formation (depression) in the upper atmosphere, while north of the Alps pressure generally begins to rise with the earlier passage of the "squall line." It is assumed that the pressure wave of such a primary formation is not influenced by mountains and that its amplitude increases toward the earth in proportion to the increase in pressure. On the other hand, with sufficient height of the mountain the "secondary," thermal-advective wave—inrush of cold air, in reference to which the term squall line is used—has influence only on its windward side. Obviously the pressure contrast is greatest when the cold air reaches barely to the crest of the mountain; then on one side the pressure wave is purely primary, while on the other it is "composite" with marked intensity in the thermally produced, secondary element.

The existence of a secondary wave is proven when the rate of decrease in amplitude of pressure change with elevation is greater or less than the rate of decrease in observed pressure. With marked pressure fall south of the Alps reduction of pressure at stations on southern side, northern side, and summit to the elevation of the latter shows like fall for southern side and summit, less fall for the northern side. The secondary, thermal pressure wave, whose effect is to counteract the primary fall, has not reached the southern side of the Alps; the primary wave is "isolated" there.

This isolation of the primary wave is a relatively rare phenomenon, characteristic of a certain stage of development only; when the rising cold air overflows to the southern side in considerable volume the thermal wave begins to fill the secondary low pressure area, but this is not well effected until after the passage of the axis of the primary depression of the upper strata.

The center of this secondary minimum forming suddenly at the western end of the Alps, over the Gulf of Genoa, shifts eastward with lessening depth. It moves to the eastern end of the Alps and with the termination of the sheltering effect of the Alps disappears east of the

[1] Der Einfluss der Alpen auf Fallgebiete des Luftdruckes und die Entstehung von Depressionen über dem Mittelmeer. *Meteorologische Zeitschrift*, Dec., 1920, 37: 350–363.